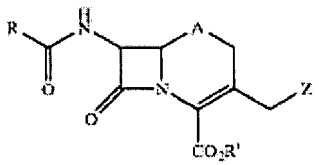
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

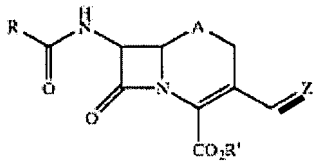
These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the amendment is replete throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter, or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula:



I or



II

in which

R is a benzyl, 2-thienylmethyl, or cyanomethyl group;

R' is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, physiologically acceptable salt or metal, the ammonium cation, and --$CHR_2OCO(CH_3)_3$, in which

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, lower alkyl; deltabutyrolactonyl, methoxycarbonyloxymethyl, phenyl, methylsulphinylmethyl, β- morpholinoethyl, dialkylaminoethyl, and dialkylaminocarbonyloxymethyl; and,

A is selected from the group consisting of O, SO, SO_2 and CH_2; ~~and~~

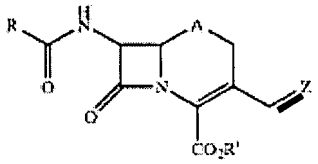
wherein, for structure I, Z comprises a fluorescent moiety bonded directly to the structure I through an O, N or S of the fluorescent moiety; or

wherein, for structure II, Z comprises a fluorescent moiety comprising a C-O linker, C-N linker or C-S linker directly bonded to the structure II through ~~a~~the carbon atom of the linker; and, ~~linker comprising an O, N or S~~

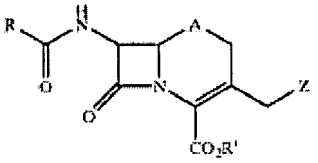
wherein the O, N or S is further bonded with a single bond to an aromatic structure of the fluorescent moiety.

Claims 2 - 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A compound having the formula:



or



in which

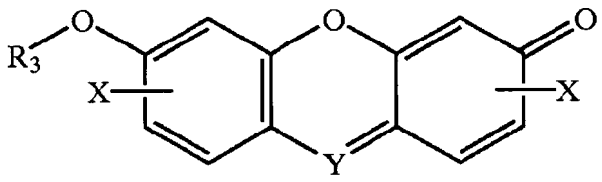
R' is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, physiologically acceptable salt or metal, the ammonium cation, and --$CHR_2OCO(CH_3)_3$, in which

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, lower alkyl; deltabutyrolactonyl, methoxycarbonyloxymethyl, phenyl, methylsulphinylmethyl, β- morpholinoethyl, dialkylaminoethyl, and dialkylaminocarbonyloxymethyl;

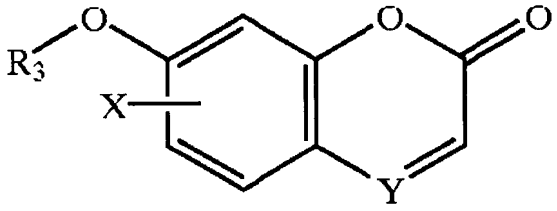
A is selected from the group consisting of O, SO, SO_2 and CH_2; and

Z is selected from:

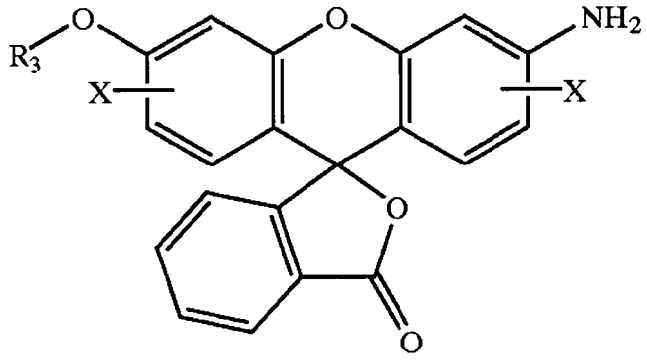
(II)



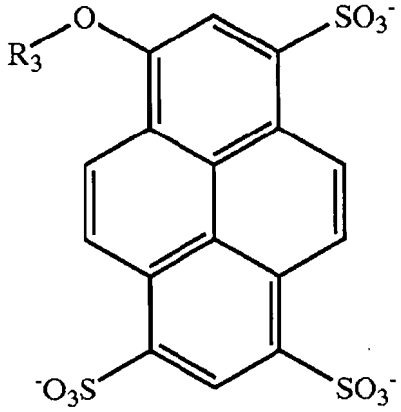
(III)



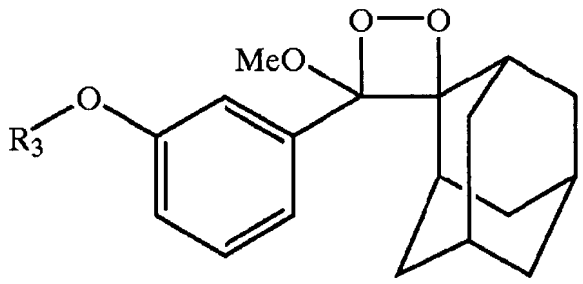
(IV)



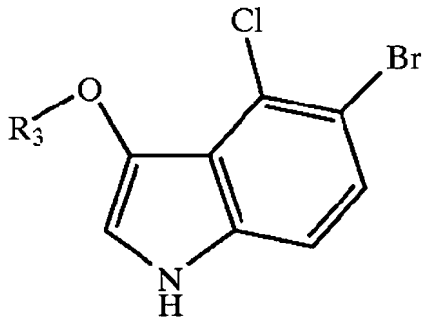
(V)



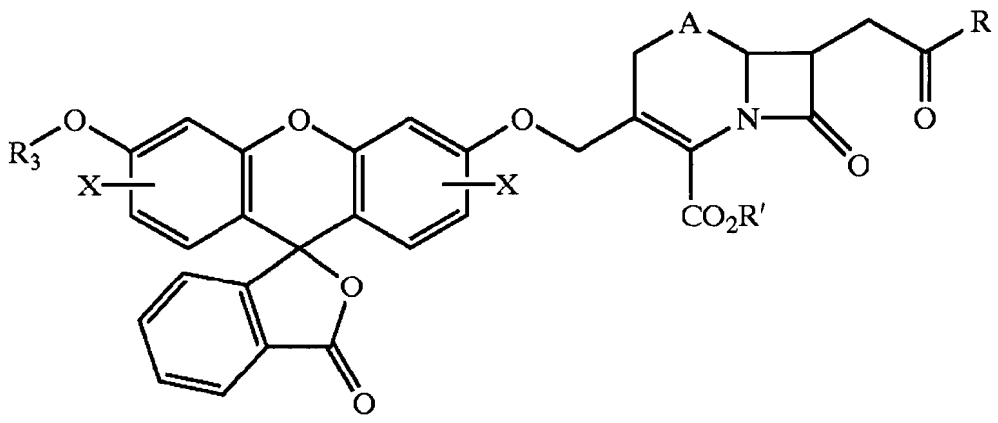
(VII)



(IX)

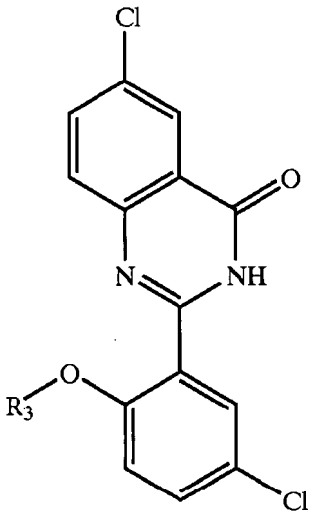


(X)



; and

(XI)



wherein

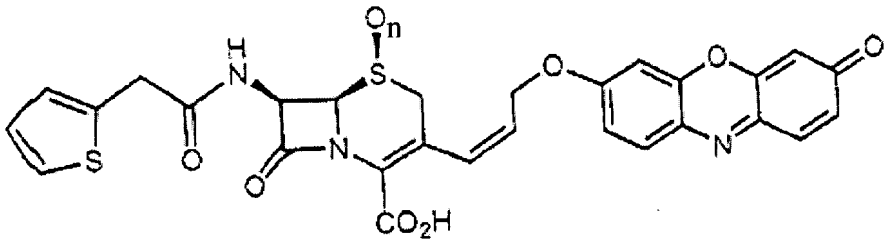
R_3 is a linker;

X is H, F, Cl, Br, or CO_2R'; and

Y is N, CH, C-CN, or C-CF_3.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The compound of claim **1**, wherein A is selected from O, SO, SO_2, and CH_2.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The compound of claim **1**, wherein the compound has the structure:



wherein n is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The compound of claim **19**, wherein n is 1 or 2.

Claims 21 - 26. (Cancelled)